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Price High School Graduate Returns to Salisbury to Speak at Martin Luther King Celebration

Judge Donald L. Graham to Deliver Key Note Message during 22nd Annual Breakfast Event

Salisbury, NC_January 16, 2008 – The Salisbury-Rowan Human Relations Council proudly announces the attendance of Salisbury-native, Judge Donald L. Graham, as Keynote Speaker at the 22nd annual Martin Luther King Breakfast on Monday, January 21. The celebration, to be held at the Salisbury Civic Center, 315 S. Boundary Street, will commence at 7:30 am and kicks-off a day of City-wide festivities honoring the national holiday. Those interested in attending may contact the City of Salisbury's Human Resources Department at 704-638-5217.

The Honorable Donald L. Graham is the son of Mildred Donald Graham and the late Ernest Graham. A 1967 graduate of J.C. Price High School, Graham is a member of the last graduating class from Price, Salisbury's former all black high school. Graham holds a B.A. degree, with magna cum laude honors, from West Virginia State University and a J.D. degree from Ohio State University College of Law. While at Ohio State, Graham received a Best Oralist Award in the Moot Court Program and the Judge Harter Award as the Outstanding Trial Practice Student.

Upon completion of his education, Graham served a four-year term in Germany as an Army attorney and was later stationed south of Miami, at Homestead Air Force base, when he left the service in 1979. Drawn to the area, Graham soon became a member of the U.S. District attorney's office and served as Chief of the Major Narcotics Traffickers section, Special Prosecutions, Organized Crime and Racketeering. A desire for independence led Graham to open his own practice in 1984. Within six months, old friend Martin Raskin would join the successful business, leading partners Graham and Raskin to try cases throughout the entire nation.

In 1991, President George Bush Sr. appointed Graham as U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Florida. Graham holds the honor of being named the first African American Federal Judge in the state of Florida. Graham still holds this position today and has been named one of Miami's most influential black business professionals by the Network Miami.

In addition, Graham serves as Adjunct Instructor in the United States Department of Justice Trial Advocacy Program, and as lecturer on behalf of the Department of Justice

and Department of Commerce in Cebu and Manila, Philippines; in Shenyang, Hangzhou, Xiamen, and Shanghai, Peoples Republic of China and in Kathmandu, Nepal. Graham has served as a member of the United States Advisory Board on the Investigative Capacity of the Department of Defense and is a faculty member for the Trial Advocacy Workshop at Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Graham's community activities include the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project, Member of the Board of Directors of the Performing Arts Center for Greater Miami Trust, Network Miami Magazine - Miami's 50 Most Influential Black Business Professionals and The Just the Beginning Foundation.

Judge Graham has a daughter, Sherrian Graham-Ross and a grandson, Chase Ross.

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